THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Travellers requisites like locks, chains, handbags, water bottles, pankhas, surahis, etc; toiletries like shaving accessories, soap, hair oil, etc; stationery items like pencil, pen, ink, writing pads, picture album, post cards of historical places, etc; toys and curios; articles of local manufactures famous for craftsmanship, Perfumes, Combs, Mirror, Nirodh, etc.

(b) Medicines, toilet items, soaps, detergents, toothpaste, jam, squashes, thraptin Biscuits, Horlicks, Bournvita, Ayurvedic/Homeopathic medicines, cosmetic items, Nirodh, etc.

LPG agencies in Tamil Nadu

432. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) the present position of supply and demand of LPG in the State;

(c) whether any request for opening of new LPG agencies in the State has been received from the state Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the agencies are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) As on June 30, 1995, there were 356 LPG distributorships operating in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The average demand of LPG during April-June, 1995 in Tamil Nadu was 21,826 MTs per month, which was met in full.

(c) and (d) Requests are received from time to time for opening of more LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including Tamil Nadu. On the basis of market survey, viable locations are included in the Marketing Plan in a phased manner subject to product availability. Accordingly, 50 LPG distributorships were included in the Marketing Plan 1992—94 for Tamil Nadu. Selection of distributors is already underway through the Oil Selection Board. In addition to the above, 112 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Tamil Nadu. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of a distributorship from the date of advertisement.

Decrease in the demand of wagons

433. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 7219 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th May, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wagon utilisation is decreased due to improve asset utilisation; if so, how Railways will meet the freight target which is increasing;

(b) what is the figure of the requisitioned made by various sectors viz. Steel, Fertiliser, Coal, Food for wagons in 1994-95; and

(c) what is the figure of wagons supplied by Railways to the above sector requisition in 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Presumably the reference is in respect of wagon requirement. The wagon requirement depends upon the level of transport output and the level of index of wagon utilization which is net tonne kilometre per wagon day (NTKM/wagon day). There has been continuous improvement over past years in NTKM/wagon day. Looking to the present demand scenario, wagon requirement estimate has been reviewed with a view to provide adequate number of wagons to meet the growing freight traffic demand.

(b) and (c) These are core sector commodities for which annual target of loading is fixed keeping in view the sectoral requirements and accordingly programme of loading is drawn. The target and loading for 1994-95 is as under:—